

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Withdrawn – Currently Amended) A method for treating a puncture in a vein or artery resulting from a cardiac catheterization procedure in a patient, comprising:
 - a) applying topically ~~to the patient's skin~~ over a catheter exit site on the skin of a patient in need of such treatment a composition comprising an effective amount of one or more vasoconstrictor, wherein the vasoconstrictor does not comprise a poly- β -1 \rightarrow 4 N-acetylglucosamine polymer or derivative thereof, and wherein the catheter exit site is contiguous with the catheter puncture in the vein or artery by 1-10 cm; and concurrently
 - b) applying compression to the punctured vein or artery;
~~wherein a cessation or reduction of blood flow out of the breach or puncture in the vein or artery is achieved in 30%–50% less time than applying compression in conjunction with a topical barrier forming material without said vasoconstrictor.~~
2. (Currently Amended) A method for treating a puncture in a femoral artery resulting from a cardiac catheterization procedure in a patient, comprising:
 - a) applying topically ~~to the patient's skin~~ over a catheter exit site on the skin of a patient in need of such treatment a composition comprising an effective amount of one or more vasoconstrictor, wherein the vasoconstrictor does not comprise a poly- β -1 \rightarrow 4 N-acetylglucosamine polymer or derivative thereof, and wherein the catheter exit site is contiguous with the catheter puncture in the femoral artery by 1-10 cm; and concurrently
 - b) applying compression to the punctured femoral artery;
~~wherein a cessation or reduction of blood flow out of the breach or puncture in the femoral artery is achieved in 30%–50% less time than applying compression in conjunction with a topical barrier forming material without said vasoconstrictor.~~
3. (Withdrawn – Currently Amended) A method for inhibiting the formation of hematomas resulting from a cardiac catheterization procedure in a patient, comprising:
 - a) applying topically ~~to the patient's skin~~ over a catheter exit site on the skin of a patient in need of such inhibition~~contiguous by 1–10 cm with a catheter puncture in a vein or~~

~~artery~~ a composition comprising an effective amount of one or more vasoconstrictor, wherein the vasoconstrictor does not comprise a poly- β -1 \rightarrow 4 N-acetylglucosamine polymer or derivative thereof, and wherein the catheter exit site is contiguous with a catheter puncture in a vein or artery by 1-10 cm; and concurrently

b) ~~concurrently~~ applying compression to the punctured vein or artery; ~~and~~
e) ~~recording the number of hematomas formed,~~
~~wherein the formation of hematomas is inhibited in comparison to applying~~
~~compression in conjunction with a topical barrier forming material without said~~
~~vasoconstrictor.~~

4. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 or 2, wherein the vasoconstrictor is endothelin, endothelin-1, epinephrine, adrenaline, metaraminol bitartrate, dopamine HCl, isoproterenol HCl, norepinephrine, phenylephrine, serotonin, thromboxane, norepinephrine, prostaglandin, methergine, oxytocin, isopreland U-46619, papaverine, yohimbine, visnadin, khellin, bebellin, or nicotinate derivatives.

5. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 or 2, wherein the composition further comprises an anti-fungal or antibacterial agent.

6. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 or 2, wherein the composition further comprises collagen.

7. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 or 2, wherein the composition further comprises a pharmaceutical carrier.

8. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 or 2, wherein the composition is formulated as a gel, a solid, a liquid, a sponge, a foam, a spray, an emulsion, a suspension, or a solution.

9. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 or 2, wherein the composition further comprises a neutral liquid, a neutral gel or a neutral solid.

10. (Original) The method of claim 9, wherein the composition further comprises a neutral solid and wherein the neutral solid is a gauze.

11. (Original) The method of claim 8, wherein the composition is in the form of a coating on a neutral solid.
12. (Original) The method of claim 11, wherein the neutral solid is a gauze.
13. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 or 2, wherein the barrier-forming material is a gauze.
14. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 or 2, wherein the composition further comprises one or more coagulant.
15. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 or 2, wherein the patient is a human.
16. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 or 2, wherein the composition applied is a film or a membrane.
17. (Original) The method of claim 16, wherein the film or membrane comprises a barrier-forming material.
18. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 or 2, wherein the composition is formulated as a mat, a string, a microbead, a microsphere, or a microfibril.
19. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 or 2, wherein the composition further comprises one or more biodegradable material.
20. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 19, wherein the biodegradable material is a polyanionic polysaccharide, alginic acid, collagen, a polypeptide, a polyglycolide, a polylactide, a polycaprolactone, dextran and a copolymer of dextran, a polyglycolide, a polylactide, a polydioxanone, a polyestercarbonate, a polyhydroxyalkonate, a polycaprolactone, or a copolymer thereof.
21. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 or 2, further comprising before step (a) the step of administering to the patient an anticoagulant.

22. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 21, wherein the anticoagulant comprises one or more of coumadin, heparin, nadroparin, ~~asparin~~ aspirin, or a thrombolytic agent.
23. (Original) The method of claim 22, wherein the composition further comprises protamine sulfate in an amount effective to neutralize heparin.
24. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the artery is the femoral, radial, brachial, or axillary artery.
25. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 1, wherein the vein is the femoral, internal jugular, or subclavian vein.
26. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 or 2, wherein the compression is manual compression.
27. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 1 or 2, wherein the compression is mechanical compression.
28. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 or 2, wherein the compression is applied to the vein or artery proximal of the puncture or breach.
29. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 or 2, wherein the compression is applied at the site of application of the composition.
30. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 or 2, wherein the compression is applied with a compression bandage.
31. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 or 2, further comprising, repeating step (b).
- 32-36. (Cancelled)
37. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 or 2, wherein the vein or artery is breached or punctured by a catheter.

38. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 or 2, wherein the skin wound contiguous with the breach or puncture in the vein or artery is 10, 9, 8, 7, 6, 5, or 4 cm from the puncture in the vein or artery.

39. (Withdrawn – Currently Amended) A method for decreasing the occurrence of localized vascular complications, comprising:

a) ~~applying topically to the patient's skin over a wound~~ on the skin of a patient at risk of said complicationseontiguous with a breach or puncture in a vein or artery a composition comprising an effective amount of one or more vasoconstrictor, wherein the vasoconstrictor does not comprise a poly- β -1 \rightarrow 4 N-acetylglucosamine polymer or derivative thereof, and wherein the wound is contiguous with a breach or puncture in a vein or artery; and concurrently

b) ~~concurrently~~ applying compression to the breached or punctured vein or artery; ~~and~~

e) ~~—recording the occurrence of localized vascular complications,~~
~~wherein an amount of the vasoconstrictor is effective to cause sealing of the breach or puncture in the vein or artery, reducing the rate of localized vascular complications in comparison to applying compression in conjunction with a topical barrier forming material without a vasoconstrictor.~~

40. (Cancelled)

41. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 39, wherein the vein or artery is breached or punctured by a catheter.

42. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 14, wherein the coagulant is alpha-2-antiplasmin, alpha-1-antitrypsin, alpha-2-macroglobulin, aminohexanoic acid, aprotinin, a source of Calcium ions, calcium alginate, calcium-sodium alginate, casein Kinase II, chitin, chitosan, collagen, cyanoacrylates, epsilon-aminocaproic acid, Factor XIII, fibrin, fibrin glue, fibrinogen, fibronectin, gelatin, living platelets, metha crylates, PAI-1, PAI-2, plasmin activator inhibitor, plasminogen, platelet agonists, protamine sulfate, prothrombin, an RGD peptide, sphingosine, a sphingosine derivative, thrombin, thromboplastin, or tranexamic acid.

43. (New) The method of claim 1, wherein the compression is applied for at least one time interval of up to ten minutes.

44. (New) The method of claim 2, wherein the compression is applied for at least one time interval of up to ten minutes.

45. (New) The method of claim 3, wherein the compression is applied for at least one time interval of up to ten minutes.

46. (New) The method of claim 39, wherein the compression is applied for at least one time interval of up to ten minutes.